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SECRETARY OF STATE

TO : Chief of Station, Frankfurt DATE: 28 August 1952
FROM : Chief, PX Attn: Pulisch
SUBJECT: GENERAL Operational
SPECIFIC: German Influence in the Near East

1. Presumably you have seen the 25 August issue of Newsweek and the article entitled, "The German Influence Behind the Egyptian Revolt". If not, in brief, Newsweek singles out Lt. Gen. Wilhelm KÄRNER, Maj. Gen. Oskar HUNZEL and Hans HEES as the key figures of a group of former German officers now employed as military advisors and technical consultants by the Egyptian Government whose advice may have contributed to the smooth efficiency of General NACUFI's coup. Newsweek's editors note that "The Americans and British find nothing sinister in the activities of the Germans".

2. In Syria, however, the picture is different. Newsweek reports the Syrian Army and Military Intelligence have felt the influence of German military advisors in Lebanon. In the chance that you may not have the article at hand, the following is a verbatim quotation: "The top-ranking German in Syria today is General KÄRNER but the most influential is a Colonel KÄRNER. He served during the war in what the Germans called the "department of foreign enemies" - a sort of combat intelligence organization - in the Oberkommando des Heeres, the army headquarters. He worked under General GÖHLIN, who now plays an important role in security matters in Germany. GÖHLIN supposedly picked KÄRNER for the Syrian job. Both the Americans and British say they know little of the Germans in Syria, but the over-suspicious French think they belong to a group organized by the Americans to carry out work Americans cannot - or would rather not - do."

3. We hold no pertinent lines on General KÄRNER. Nor do we have any information which would substantiate Newsweek's contention that Colonel KÄRNER is General GÖHLIN's man in Syria. KÄRNER, however, is undoubtedly identical with Col. Falih KÄRNER, who is fairly well documented in reports from Damascus. Attached are two recent reports on his role in Syria.

4. You might be interested to know that this article was first brought to our attention on 15 August by the DDCI/M office, which had received an

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